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Westminster, March 6.

HER Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers; and being in Her Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Mr. Aston, Deputy Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from Her Majesty to the House of Commons, requiring their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, Her Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act for an UNION *of the Two Kingdoms of* England *and* Scotland.

An Act for rendering more Effectual an Act passed in the First Year of Her Majesty's Reign, Entituled, An Act for the better Preventing Escapes out of the Queen's-Bench *and* Fleet *Prisons.*

An Act for Repairing the Highway between Hockliffe *and* Wooborne *in the County of* Bedford.

An Act for Continuing the Acts formerly made for Repairing of the Highways in the County of Hertford.

An Act for Enlarging the Passage leading to New Palace-Yard, *through the Gate-House,* Westminster.

And to Four Private Bills.

After which Her Majesty made a most Gracious Speech to both Houses, which follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

IT is with the greatest Satisfaction, that I have given My Assent to a Bill for Uniting England *and* Scotland *into One Kingdom.*

I Consider this Union, as a Matter of the greatest Importance to the Wealth, Strength, and Safety of the whole Island, and at the same time as a Work of so much Difficulty, and Nicety in its own Nature, that till now all Attempts, which have been made towards it in the Course of above a Hundred Years, have proved Ineffectual; and therefore I make no Doubt but it will be remembred, and Spoke of hereafter to the Honour of those, who have been Instrumental in bringing it to such a Happy Conclusion.

I Desire and Expect from all My Subjects of both Nations, that from henceforth they Act with all possible Respect and Kindness to one another, that so it may appear to all the World, they have Hearts disposed to become One People.

This will be a great Pleasure to Me, and will make Us all quickly Sensible of the good Effect of this Union.

And I cannot but look upon it as a peculiar Happiness, that in My Reign so full a Provision is made for the Peace and Quiet of My People, and for the Security of Our Religion, by so firm an Establishment of the Protestant Succession throughout GREAT BRITAIN.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I take this Occasion to remind you of making effectual Provision for the Payment of the Equivalent to Scotland *within the Time appointed by this Act; and I am Perswaded you will shew as much Readiness in this particular as you have done in all the other Parts of this* GREAT WORK.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Season of the Year being now pretty far advanc'd, I hope you will Continue the same Zeal, which has appear'd throughout this Session, in Dispatching what yet remains Unfinish'd of the Publick Business before you.

Lisbon, Febr. 26. N. S. The Confederate Fleet commanded by Sir Cloudesly Shovell, after having met with several Disappointments by bad Weather, at length got safe before Alicant the 8th Instant, where the Earl Rivers went on Shore; and Orders were given for landing the Troops under his Excellency's Command, which, according to our Advices from thence, would be all on Shore by the 11th. The Arrival of so powerful a Reinforcement put the Enemy into so great a Consternation, that they immediately quitted Elche, and some other Posts thereabouts, of which our Men took possession; and Orders were given for all our Troops on that side to prepare for taking the Field without Loss of Time. They will make up an Army of 30000 effective Men, whereof 8000 will be Horse and Dragoons. The Enemy have already begun to draw off their Troops from our Frontiers to reinforce those towards Valentia; so that the Portuguese will be able to make a considerable Diversion on this side. The Marquis de Montandre, who lately went from hence to Valentia to concert Matters with the Earl of Galway, is shortly expected back; as is also the Marquis de Frontera, who, under the Duke of Cadaval, is to command our Forces on these Frontiers. Divers Merchant-men are lately come in here, who were separated in the Latitude of 44 Degrees by bad Weather from a Fleet bound hither from England, under the Convoy of several Men of War commanded by Sir Thomas Dilkes, who is hourly expected.

Turin, Febr. 26. The 24th Instant a Drummer arrived here with a Packet for the Sieur de Senneterre, one of the French General Officers who are detained in this Place as Prisoners of War, containing a Commission, empowering him to treat of an Exchange of Prisoners: Whereupon our Duke has sent an Express to Prince Eugene, to desire him to appoint some Person to assist on his part at the Conferences to be held for that purpose. The Hereditary Prince of Hesse-Cassel intends to leave this Place to morrow, and to return to Milan.

Milan, March 1. The 22d past the Imperialists began to fire upon our Castle from a new Battery of 20 Guns, with very good Success; but the Enemy's Cannon having dismounted three of the Imperialists, they were obliged to remove that Battery to another place, where it is less exposed. That Night the Besieged made a Sally, and the 24th they made another; but were both times repulsed with considerable Loss. For these two Nights past the Firing has been very great on both sides, and many Bombs were thrown into the Castle. Yesterday, by break of Day the Garison sallied again with great fury, and several Men were killed on both sides; but the Enemy were at last obliged to retire with the greater Share of the Loss. The Imperialists have begun to make a Breach in the Rampart: They have carried on their Approaches to the Palisadoes, and expect to morrow a fresh Supply of Cannon and Ammunition; and they hope in a Day or two to carry the Covered-way. They have been reinforced with some of the Troops of Wirtemberg, and a Detachment of those of the Duke of Savoy; but his Royal Highness, instead of coming hither, as it was said he intended to do, is making Preparations to attack Valenza.

Vienna, March 2. The Emperor has sent to invite the Archbishop of Colocza, Count Cohari, and several others of the Hungarian Nobility, to some Conferences that are shortly to be held here, to consult upon proper Methods for restoring the Peace and Tranquility of that Kingdom. Letters from thence confirm the safe Arrival of Baron Tiege with his Detachment in Transilvania; and add, that he had since freed the Town of Hermanstad, and the Castle of Deva, which were blocked up by the Malecontents.

Francfort, March 9. The Deputies of the four neighbouring Circles, who were assembled at Heilbron, have ended their Conferences, having come to several Resolutions, and given the necessary Directions for the speedy providing their Quota of Men, Money, Artillery and other Necessaries, towards a vigorous Prosecution of the War the next Summer. The Garisons of Landau and Philipsbourg have been considerably augmented, and provided with all things requisite for their Defence. A great Number of the Imperial Troops are come from their Winter Quarters into the Lines of Biehl and Stolhoffen, and they are all ordered to be in a readiness to take the Field by the 25th Instant: And such good Care is taken in every Respect, that we are now freed of all Apprehension on account of the Preparations which the Enemy seemed to be making in Alsace for some Expedition.

Hague, March 15. N. S. Monsieur Schlinder arrived here last Night from Saxony, being sent by King Augustus, with Proposals concerning a Body of Saxon Troops which that Prince offers to put into the Service of Her Majesty of Great Britain and the States General. Mr. Stepney, Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, is on his Departure for Brussels; as are likewise Messieurs Renswoude and Vandenberg, who are to reside there as Deputies from the States. Letters from Germany say, the Margrave of Brandenbourg Bareith is to continue in the Chief Command of the Imperial Army on the Rhine; that Field-Marshal General Thungen is to command under him; and that Count Staremberg is also to serve in that Army, who lately commanded the Imperial Troops in Hungary. The States of Holland and Westfriseland are to assemble here this Week.

Falmouth, March 3. Yesterday arrived here the Tryal Galley from New-England, Richard Nutt Master, and the Hopewell Sloop from Bermudas, John Vaughan Master, both bound for London, but last from Mounts-Bay. Soon after 6 French Privateers stood off and on before this Place for several Hours; but in the Evening two of our Frigats, with about 14 Sail of small Vessels, coming from the Westward, they stood to Sea. This Day came in the Alliance Packet-Boat, Captain Green Commander, in 12 Days from Lisbon, who brings an Account, That 3 of our homeward bound East-India Ships, *viz.* the Cæsar, Abingdon and Westmorland, were come in there.

Plimouth, March 4. Yesterday arrived here Her Majesty's Ships the Warwick and Lark from the Streights, and under their Convoy 8 Ships from Gibraltar, bound for London; the Elizabeth and Mary from Virginia, and the Union from Mountserrat: At the same time put in here Her Majesty's Ship the Hector from Milford, the Henrietta from Foy, bound for Holland, and the Betty of this Place from Alicant.

Kensington, March 6. This Day their Excellencies Signior Nicolo Erizzo, and Signior Aluiso Pisani, Ambassadors Extraordinary from the Republick of Venice, had a private Audience of his Royal Highness; being introduced by Charles Cottrell Esq; Assistant-Master of the Ceremonies.

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